

THE ORGANIZATION FOR BAT CONSERVATION BAT HOUSE

Finally there is a bat house that actually works! The Organization for Bat Conservation Bat House is based on more than 10 years of research and has an 80% occupancy rate! Other designs may have less than a 10% chance of attracting bats.

Your new bat house is made with exterior weather-resistant materials, built to withstand the elements. The inside is covered with nylon mesh for the bats to hold onto with their toenails, along with a long landing area for easy entrance into the house and a predator guard. Your house has a ventilation slat for better air circulation. The roof is slanted for proper rain run-off and the roof and upper part of the house are sealed with silicone caulk to keep the heat in and the water out.

BAT CONSERVATION

Bats are an invaluable natural resource. Due to habitat destruction and pesticide use, environmental change and White-nose Syndrome, the bat population is in alarming decline. By putting up a bat house, you are helping bats find a safe, secure home. You will also personally benefit from having fewer yard and garden pests. As the primary predators of night-flying insects, bats play a vital role in maintaining the balance of nature. And, as consumers of vast numbers of pests, they rank among humanity's most valuable allies. A single Little Brown bat can eat hundreds of mosquito-size insects an hour. A typical colony of Big Brown bats can protect local farmers from the costly yearly attacks of 18 million root-worms and other pests.

MOUNTING YOUR BAT HOUSE

Where you mount your bat house plays an important role in whether it will be occupied. **Bats like warm conditions.** Houses can be mounted on poles, sides of buildings, and dead trees. (Only place a bat house on a live tree if the tree is extremely tall and the foliage starts above the bat house). Houses should be mounted at least 15 feet above the ground. **The higher the house is mounted, the better your chances are of attracting bats.**

Bat houses should face south to southeast to take advantage of the morning sun. **In northern States and Canada, bat houses need to receive at least six to eight hours of direct sunlight.** You can also paint the house black to absorb heat. Be sure to use water-based, non-toxic, latex paint when painting the house. Southern states may want to place the bat house in direct sun, but unpainted. Extreme southern areas may want to paint the bat house white to reflect the heat.

BATS THAT USE BAT HOUSES

In most of the U.S. and Canada, the Little Brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), which has a length of about three inches and a wingspan of about 10 inches, and the Big Brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), which has a length of about five inches and a wingspan of 12 inches, use bat houses. They do inhabit the southeast, but are generally replaced there by the Southeastern bat (*Myotis austroriparius*), which is the size of a Little Brown, but has longer ears. Pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*) are found in dry areas and are pale in color. In the south and southwest, you will find the Evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*), Eastern Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*), Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*), and the Mexican Free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasileinsis*).

WHEN TO EXPECT BATS

Bats wake from hibernation and return from migration as early as March in most of the United States. They may stay active year-round in the extreme southern U.S. Bats will be abundant throughout the spring, summer and early fall. You can expect the bat house to become occupied within a year to three years. If bats have not moved into the house after three years, consider placing it in a different location.



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#SAVETHEBATS